

On Sept. 15, Fowler met with O'Connor and Eric and Patricia Hotung, who attended a White House dinner that evening with the President and the First Lady.<sup>269</sup> Records reflect that within five days after the meeting: (1) O'Connor followed-up with Mercer in pursuing a meeting for Eric Hotung with the National Security Advisor's office; (2) O'Connor confirmed in writing to the DNC that Patricia Hotung would be making a DNC contribution; and (3) Fowler sent the White House Political Affairs staff a memo requesting a meeting for Eric Hotung with either Lake or Berger later that month – twice noting in the memo that Eric and Patricia Hotung were “strong supporters” of the DNC.<sup>270</sup> On the basis of Fowler's request, Sandy Berger met briefly with Eric Hotung on Oct. 4, 1995, at the White House.<sup>271</sup> James Symington of O'Connor & Hannan and Mercer accompanied Hotung to this meeting but did not participate in it.

Fowler insists that he did nothing to assist O'Connor or Eric Hotung in relation to the promise of a \$100,000 gift from Patricia Hotung to the DNC. Indeed, he suggests that he “just didn't focus on” (and perhaps did not even read) the language in O'Connor's Sept. 7 letter that

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<sup>269</sup>Mercer's Sept. 14, 1995, memo to Fowler about this meeting mentioned both the expected contribution and the White House dinner, as well as the fact that the DNC would be “helping to set up a meeting with the Hotungs at the [NSC], hopefully with Sandy Berger.” Review of documents and interviews of witnesses from, among other sources, both the White House and the DNC indicate that Eric Hotung did not meet privately with President Clinton during this timeframe, though he was later invited to a March 27, 1996, White House dinner and an April 1, 1996, White House coffee.

<sup>270</sup>Memorandum from Don Fowler to Doug Sosnik (via Karen Hancox), Sept. 20, 1995.

<sup>271</sup>Berger testified during the Senate Committee's investigation that he has no recollection of this meeting, which his records characterized as a “photo op.” Samuel Berger Appointment Schedule, Oct. 4, 1995. Both before and after his meeting with Berger, Hotung met with the NSC Director for Asian Affairs. The first such meeting was held at the offices of O'Connor & Hannan. Hotung did not meet at any time with Anthony Lake.